Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 02763 221530Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /106 W
----------117038 222329Z /64
R 221410Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5276
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 2763

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, KE
SUBJECT: GOK RADIO BROADCAST HITS ALLEGED DISPARITY IN WESTERN/ARAB TREATMENT OF SOMAIA AND KENYA

1. VOICE OF KENYA REGULAR EDITORIAL FEATURE "THAT IS THE WAY IT IS," BROADCASTED FEBRUARY 21 AND 22, MADE HARD-HITTING ATTACK ON WHAT IT CLAIMED WAS DOUBLE-STANDARD EMPLOYED BY WESTERN AND ARAB NATIONS AND IRAN IN DEALINGS

WITH KENYA AND SOMALIA. STANDARD FEBRUARY 22 DEVOTED HEAD-LINES AND LEAD STORY TO VOK BROADCAST. MAJOR POINTS MADE WERE:
A. SOMAIA'S ALLIES, BOTH WESTERN AND ARAB, ARE SUPPORTING SOMALIA IN FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ITS GRAND DESIGN TO CREATE A GREATER SOMALIA TO INCLUDE PARTS OF KENYA AND DJIBOUTI. SOMALIA HAS DECLARED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT ONCE IT HAS "SETTLED ITS CASE" IN OGADEN, IT WILL TURN TO
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PAGE 02 NAIROB 02763 221530Z

NORTH-EASTERN KENYA.

B. COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NOW ARMING SOMALIA AT RAPID PACE HAVE RESPONDED POORLY TO KENYA'S NEEDS TO STRENGTHEN ITS ARMED FORCES. ARMS SUPPLIED TO KENYA ARE DELIVERED ONLY AFTER LONG LEAD TIMES OF OVER ONE YEAR.

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C. ARMS PROVIDED TO KENYA ARE USUALLY PRECEEDED BY
WORLD-WIDE PUBLICITY, WHILE ARMS ARE GIVEN TO SOMALIA IN
TOTAL SECRECY. THIS MEANT THAT COUNTRIES HOSTILE TO KENYA
HAVE COMPLETE INFORMATION ON COUNTRY'S ARMED FORCES, WHILE
KENYA HAS NO COMPARABLE INFO ABOUT SOMALI MILITARY. THIS
CLANDESTINE SUPPORT OF SOMALIA "LEAVES KENYA IN DOUBT
AS TO WHO OUR REAL FRIENDS ARE."
D. KENYA HAD SUPPORTED PALISTINIAN CAUSE TO EXTENT OF
BREAKING OFF DIPLOMATIC AND TRADE LINKS WITH ISRAEL. YET, SOME
OF COUNTRIES MOST VEHEMENT ON CONDEMNING ISRAELI OCCUPATION
OF TERRITORY BY FORCE DO NOT SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH SAME
ACTION WHEN TAKEN BY SOMALIA.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT BROADCAST DIRECTED
PRIMARILY AT FRANCE, ITALY, SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN(ONLY
COUNTRY WHICH WAS MENTIONED BY NAME), ALL BELIEVED
HERE TO BE SENDING ARMS TO SOMALIA. IN AFTERMATH OF
RUPTURE IN RELATIONS WITH IRAN, HOWEVER, GOK PROBABLY
DESIRES TO AVOID PROVIDING PRETEXT FOR OTHER NATIONS SUPPORTING
SOMALIA IN HORN CONFLICT TO RETALIATE DIPLOMATICALLY AGAINST
KENYA, AND IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO DIRECT PUBLIC
SALVOS AGAINST GROUPS OF NATIONS, RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL
OFFENDERS. THIS IN NO WAY DETRACTS FROM PROFOUND
DISQUIET PROVISION OF ARMS TO SOMALIA BY KENYA'S
ESTWHILE FRIENDS HAS PRODUCED HERE.

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3. WHILE "WESTERN" NATIONS ASSUMED TO BE THOSE MENTIONED
PARA 2, IT POSSIBLE THAT CRITICISM DIRECTED AGAINST
SLOW DELIVERIES AND PUBLICITY ON PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED
ARMS SUPPLIES COULD BE AIMED AT UK, CANADA AND OURSELVES.
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